

Appln No. 10/736,751

Preliminary Amendment dated February 21, 2005

- 5 -

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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 18 as filed are pending in the application.

The primary support for the claims contained in this application is found in paragraphs 39 to 41 and paragraphs 74 to 76, which paragraphs correspond to page 9, line 4 to page 10, line 3, and page 17, line 13 to page 18, line 12, respectively, of WO 00/03283 published January 20, 2000.

The specification has been amended in the "summary of invention" section to include statements of invention which conform with the newly introduced claims. The Abstract has likewise been amended to conform with the subject matter of the new claims.

An IDS has been submitted previously. In reviewing the PAIR site, Applicant found that reference DE 9004328 was not properly scanned. A replacement copy of the reference is also enclosed.

Examination of the claims on merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant hereby requests any extension of time that may be necessary for consideration of this amendment, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Applicant hereby requests that any fee which may be required for the papers being filed with this letter be charged to, or any overpayment be credited to, Account No. 502651. An executed Fee Transmittal form is also enclosed.

Appln No. 10/736,751

Preliminary Amendment dated February 21, 2005

- 6 -

In the event that any PTO official wishes to discuss this application on the telephone, the call should be directed to the undersigned at (416) 865-8121.

Yours very truly,



February 21, 2005

Date

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Attachments: (1) Replacement Abstract
(2) Replacement copy of DE
9004328, previously submitted
with IDS

Appln No. 10/736,751

Preliminary Amendment dated February 21, 2005

- 7 -

Abstract of the Disclosure

A microscope having a pair of braces connecting a head portion, carrying an objective, to the base, to which a stage is attached. The braces, which preferably have resonant frequency that is not a harmonic or sub-harmonic of the fundamental frequency of vibration of the C-shaped frame, function to reduce vibration and enhance the clarity of the image viewed through the objective. In one embodiment, the length of the braces along a vertical optical axis of the microscope can be adjusted to provide very fine focusing control.

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